

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

----- 069282

R 011407Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9740

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: DE MARTINO URGES HARDER LINE TOWARD GOVERNMENT

REF: ROME 14258

1. THE PSI NEWSPAPER AVANTI' TODAY FEATURES A FRONT PAGE ARTICLE BY FORMER PARTY SECRETARY FRANCESCO DE MARTINO. THE LONG PIECE, ENTITLED "IDEOLOGY AND POLITICS", BREAKS THE PUBLIC SILENCE WHICH DE MARTINO HAD MAINTAINED SINCE HIS RESIGNATION AS PARTY SECRETARY ON JULY 13. WITHOUT MENTIONING THE POSITION TAKEN BY INCUMBENT PARTY SECRETARY BETTINO CRAXI IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A TUNISIAN JOURNAL (FEFTEL), DE MARTINO LAID DOWN A MUCH HARDER LINE TOWARD THE DC MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND TOOK A SOFTER APPROACH TO THE PCI THAN CRAXI. THIS MAY REPRESENT DE MARTINO'S ATTEMPT TO STAKE OUT A POSITION ATTRACTIVE TO THE PSI LEFT PREPARATORY TO THE SEPT. 3 DIRECTORATE MEETING.

2. WHILE REAFFIRMING THE CORRECTNESS OF THE PSI'S ABSTENTION IN THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON THE GOVERNMENT, DE MARTINO EMPHASIZES THAT "THE DC MONOCOLORE GOVERNMENT IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO CONFRONT THE COUNTRY'S GRAVE PROBLEMS." HE STOPS SHORT OF CALLING FOR A GOVERNMENT CRISIS, BUT ADVOCATES PLACING UNRELENTING PRESSURE ON THE DC.

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3. CONTRASTING WITH CRAXI'S EMPHASIS ON THE DISTANCE WHICH THE

PCI STILL MUST TRAVEL ON THE REVISIONIST PATH, DE MARTINO PUTS
THE ACCENT ON THE POSITIVE CHANGES ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY THE PCI.
HE ASSERTS THAT THE PSI SHOULD PRESS THE CAUSE OF LEFTIST UNITY,
THE "PRESUPPOSITIONS" OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN CREATED.
EVEN THE IDEA OF SOCIALIST AUTONOMY, SAYS DE MARTINO, MUST FIND
A NEW DEFINITION AS THE PCI INCREASINGLY ASSUMES TRADITIONAL
SOCIALIST POSITIONS. SOCIALIST POLICY, HE CONCLUDES, MUST
POINT ALWAYS TOWARD A LEFTIST ALTERNATIVE, SUPPORTING SOLUTIONS
LIKE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT ONLY AS WAY STATIONS IN A HISTORICAL
CYCLE. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME14291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760332-0342
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609101/aaaadiwi.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 14258
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DE MARTINO URGES HARDER LINE TOWARD GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, IT, (DE MARTINO, FRANCESCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006